HQ
H193
c.2

Memorable procrastination
Procrastination: friend or foe? Read Grace Bowers' Senior Reflection on **page 8** to find out.

25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee

Read about the first student-run musical production to be performed in the Kennedy Arts Center on **page 10**.

Getting even with the Ephs
Men's basketball beat last year's national championship runner up 67-64. Read more on **page 15**.

RECEIVED
FEB 0 5 2015
HAMILTON COLLEGE LIBRARY

1847 The Spectator

The Spectator

Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015

Volume LV Number 14

Campus community honors Leelah Alcorn

PHOTO BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN '17

by Kirsty Warren '18
News Editor

Quiet fell in the chapel on Wednesday afternoon for a candlelit vigil in honor of Leelah Alcorn, a 17-year-old girl who committed suicide on December 28, 2014. Alcorn's death became a flashpoint in the trans rights movement when pre-scheduled posts appeared on her Tumblr account citing her conservative Christian parents' refusal to accept her transgender identity as a reason she ended her life.

"Please don't be sad, it's for the better. The life I would've lived isn't worth living in ... because I'm transgender," Alcorn said in a post.

"The only way I will rest in peace is if one day transgender people aren't treated the way I was, they're treated like humans, with valid feelings and human rights. Gender needs to be taught about in schools, the earlier the better," Alcorn wrote.

Swati Acharya '16 began Wednesday's vigil by telling Alcorn's story and speaking out against the "disdain and violence that plague the trans community." She also honored Lamia Beard and Ty Underwood, two trans women who were murdered this past January.

"Trans people and their struggle are largely invisible," Acharya said.

Acharya, a member of the Womyn's Center e-board, said that once she thought of hosting a vigil in Alcorn's memory, she contacted campus organizations that advocate for trans rights. In addition to the Womyn's Center, the Rainbow Alliance, the Feminists of Color Collective, the Days-Massolo Center and college chaplain Jeff McArn made the service possible.

"My hopes [for the vigil] are to, first, give everyone who feels deep sorrow for Leelah the opportunity to send their condolences. My second objective is to raise awareness of trans issues. Trans people and their issues are invisible in our society as no one addresses the violence and derogatory attitude inflicted on them," Acharya said. "The main reason Leelah got the media attention that she did was because she was an active Tumblr user. There are so many other cases like Leelah that no one hears about because they are not covered."

On Tumblr, Alcorn wrote that she "cried of happiness" when she discovered the word 'transgender' at 14 because she had felt like, what she de

see Vigil, page 3

Students lend a hand at MLK Day of Service

by Sirianna Santacrose '15
Managing Editor

For over twenty years, Hamilton Association for Volunteering, Outreach and Charity, or HAVOC, has had an influential role in serving the local community and creating connections between Hamilton students and residents of Clinton, New Hartford and Utica. Last Saturday was no exception, marking the seventeenth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day organized by HAVOC. Over the course of about four hours, more than 140 students volunteered their time at sixteen local organizations, including Kirkland Town Library, Spring Farm Cares, the Lutheran Home and Masonic Care Community.

The co-directors of this service event were Emily Goldberg '16 and James Hunter '17, who both have extensive community service experience. Goldberg ran community service projects in high school, which she said got her "interested in collaborative work with community partners and event planning." Similarly, Hunter ran a program writing letters and sending care packages to veterans in high school, and he later held roles as a volunteer, e-board member, project manager and site coordinator for HAVOC.

While there are opportunities to volunteer often with HAVOC sites, many students on campus are unable to commit to volunteering at a site every week due to other commitments. This is why service days like Make a Difference Day in the fall and MLK Service Day in the spring offer the perfect way for students to spend one day out of their busy schedules helping others and getting involved in service efforts off the Hill.

see Students, page 3

HAMILTON.EDU

140 student took time out of their Saturday to give back to the local community at 16 different locations.

Hamilton students selected to attend Clinton Global Initiative University

by Jack Cartwright '15
Senior Editor

Four Hamilton College students will join thousands of other students from all over the world along with President Bill Clinton and his daughter Chelsea when they attend the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGIU) conference at the University of Miami in March. Jose Vazquez '15, Ryan Ong '16, Sharif Shrestha '17 and Tsion Tesfaye '16 applied to, and were accepted by, the CGIU to join other students, university representatives, topic experts and celebrities in order to "discuss and develop innovative solutions to pressing challenges," according to the CGIU website. Hamilton College is a member of the CGIU network, which requires a university provide a minimum of $10,000 in funding to CGIU student representatives from the school. Accordingly, the Levitt Center along with other offices such as Student Activities and the Dean of Faculty, through the Class of 1979 Travel Fund, will help cover the cost of transportation to the conference.

Before applying, each student had to come up with a commitment to action, in which he or she must propose "new, specific, and measurable initiatives that address pressing challenges on campus, in local communities, or around the world." Since the first CGIU in 2008, students have made more than 4,800 commitments to action. This is the first year Hamilton is sending students to the conference, having just become a member of the CGIU network this past summer. Some previous commitment projects have included manufacturing wheelchairs for developing countries, or creating campus bike share programs.

The students representing Hamilton College have committed to ambitious and diverse projects. Vazquez and Ong are teaming up to combat LGBT homelessness with their project entitled Disclosure Group. According to Ong, they "want to activate and educate our supporters through clothing apparel and social media platforms." All proceeds raised through sales from Disclosure Group's apparel sale will be given to the Ali Forney Center, the largest homeless LGBTQ youth center, located in New York City. Ong believes that the successful gay marriage movement has distracted from the issue of LGBT homelessness. Vazquez points out that according to a national think tank at the UCLA School of Law, "approximately 40 percent of homeless youth served by drop-in centers, street outreach programs, and housing programs are of the LGBTQ community," which is especially high given that only 5-10 percent of the youth

see CGI, page 2

Professor emeritus Donald Potter dies at age 91

HAMILTON.EDU

by Dan Snyder '17
News Editor

Professor of geology emeritus Donald Potter passed away peacefully at his home the morning of January 20. Potter's death followed complications from a fall. In an email to the campus community, Hamilton College President Joan Hinde Stewart announced Potter's death.

Potter was a Williams College graduate who received his master's from Brown University and Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology. He joined the Hamilton faculty in 1954 and retired from formal teaching in 1988, at which time friends and former students established the Donald Potter Endowment in Geology, which funds for undergraduate geological field research. Supported by grants from NASA and the National Science Foundation, Professor Potter included numerous students in his research during his time at Hamilton. His scholarly activity continued past his time on the Hill as he pursued interests in the Adirondacks and led weeklong alumni trips to Big Bend National Park in Texas.

An avid outdoorsman, Potter served with the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division which was at the time an elite troop of skiers who fought in the U.S. invasion of Italy during the Second World War. Potter, a native of the Adirondacks, never lost his love for skiing, and as recently as last fall, he went cross-country skiing in the Kirkland Town Park.

Potter was very active in the local community. In 1972, he helped establish the Clinton A Better chance program, sang in the choir at St. James Church and mentored local high school participants in the Science Olympiad.

In her email, President Stewart described Potter as, "a warm, gracious and caring man." Former students of Professor Potter expressed similar memories of the beloved professor in the comment section of the press release about his death on the Hamilton website. Jay Eveleth '57 wrote, "Professor Potter was a wonderful teacher and patient skiing coach when the Hamilton ski team was the most rag-tag bunch which ever occupied the slopes." Dr. Susan Grant '88 wrote, "Some of my favorite memories of Hamilton were with Doc Potter and trips to Big Bend, the southwest national parks, hunting for minerals, and leading Adirondack Adventure trips. What a fantastic role model. I hope to have his enthusiasm and love for the outdoors into my 90's too."

In his final weeks, Professor Potter received many letters and cards from friends and former students. He died in the company of his family.

Student projects recognized by CGI

*from **Hamilton students,** page 1*

population is LGBT.

Shrestha, on the other hand, is looking to tackle poverty in his home country of Nepal. His project, which he calls the Herbs Cooperative for Economic Empowerment, aims to alleviate poverty and gender disparity in jobs in his village "by starting a local, self-sustaining herb cooperative emphasizing on share ownership by men and women." Finally, Tesfaye's project is called Youth for Ethiopia, a "leadership and social innovation training program for high school students in Ethiopia." Tesfaye is passionate about both education reforms in developing countries and working with youth, so this project will allow her to tie both of her interests together.

Each of these Hamilton students look forward to gaining new skills quite a bit from their time at CGIU. Vazquez hopes "to learn strategies in raising awareness that involve social justice and how our organization can have more influence in the realm of public policy." At the same time, Shrestha hopes to use CGIU as a way to get feedback on his project. "Through the conversations with my fellow participants and mentorship from leaders and facilitators, I expect to get various perspectives on my project and use them to refine my project," he said. Along the same lines, Tesfaye also hopes to learn as much as she can from other students and from guest speakers at the event.

Ong, Vazquez, Shrestha and Tesfaye each credited the Levitt Center for the guidance and support it has given them in the application process. Tesfaye specifically thanked Chris Willemsen for encouraging her to apply to CGIU. Similarly, Shrestha thanks the Levitt Center for helping him focus his ideas because "in its infancy, [he] didn't know where [he] was headed with it." The Levitt Center also encouraged Ong to apply after he took party in the Levitt Center's Social Innovations Fellows program last spring.

AMHERST BATES BOWDOIN COLBY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

NESCAC NEWS

by Isaac Kirschner '17
News Contributor

Bowdoin Trustees elect Clinton S. Rose as next President

After an eight-month international search, the Bowdoin College Board of Trustees announced on Monday that Clayton S. Rose, Ph.D, had been unanimously elected as the college's fifteenth president. Rose will officially become President of Bowdoin College on July 1, one day after outgoing President Barry Mills leaves office.

Bowdoin Board of Trustees Chair Deborah Jensen Barke said, "Clayton Rose is the ideal person to lead Bowdoin into the future. He is immensely qualified academically, combining a passion for the liberal arts and a dedication to teaching and learning with extensive leadership experience. He's going to be terrific as Bowdoin's next president."

Dr. Rose currently serves as a faculty member at Harvard Business School where he teaches and writes on business leadership and responsibility. He earned his undergraduate degree and MBA from the University of Chicago before entering a successful 20-year career in finance. In 2003, Rose entered a doctoral studies program at the University of Pennsylvania and received his Ph.D in 2007.

"Bowdoin is an exceptional liberal arts college, with a rich history, distinct set of values, and a gifted, engaged and devoted group of faculty, students, staff and alumni," said President-elect Rose. "I am honored and excited by the opportunity to lead this special institution, and Julianne and I are very much looking forward to becoming part of the Bowdoin and Brunswick communities."

Members of the Bowdoin Community expressed support for Rose's election and excitement about the future of the college. Student representative to the Presidential Search Committee Dustin Biron '15 predicted that Rose "will be a strong presence in the life of the College," while fellow student representative Oriana Farnham '15 said she was impressed with Rose's willingness to listen and his ability to ask thoughtful questions.

Colby College names new Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid

On January 13, Colby College President David A. Greene announced that Mathew T. Proto would serve as the school's next Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid. Proto currently serves as an assistant Dean of Admissions at Stanford University and oversees the university's marketing and communications efforts. Proto's work at Stanford is credited with contributing to the university's largest applicant pool and highest yield rate in its history.

Proto, a NESCAC alumnus, earned his bachelors degree from Yale before earning a masters degree at Wesleyan and doctorate in educate from UNC Chapel Hill. He worked in college counseling at Choate Rosemary Hall while at Yale and later went on to run the scholar selection process at the Morehead-Cain Scholars Program at UNC Chapel Hill.

"It is an honor to be selected as the next vice president and Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid at Colby College," said Proto. "The opportunity to work with President Greene and lead the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid is extraordinary. I look forward to working with staff and collaborating with members of the community to bring to Colby the students who will most benefit from the remarkable educational experience the College provides."

Proto will begin his tenure on June 1st and will oversee an admissions staff of 25. In this position, Proto will be responsible for all aspects of admissions, including application reading, alumni participation and student-athlete recruitment. He will also oversee Colby's financial aid program which is dedicated to providing financial support for all students in need.

MIDDLEBURY TRINITY TUFTS WESLEYAN WILLIAMS

Vigil raises awareness of trans issues

from Leelah Alcorn, page 1

scribed as a girl trapped in a boy's body since the age of four. However, when she told her parents, they told her it was just a phase and refused to let her start any kind of medical transitionary treatments. She struggled with depression but her parents would only take her to so-called conversion therapy, pseudo-scientific treatments aimed at changing the sexual orientation or gender identity of non-heterosexual or non-cisgender people. Hoping to ease into coming out as trans, Alcorn came out as gay at school. This angered her parents so much that they removed her from school and took away all access to social media, effectively cutting her off from her friends.

"After a summer of having almost no friends plus the weight of having to think about college, save money for moving out, keep my grades up, go to church each week and feel like shit because everyone there is against everything I live for, I have decided I've had enough," Alcorn wrote.

In her post, Alcorn expressed the wish that her belongings be sold and the profits donated to transgender rights movements. "My death needs to mean something. My death needs to be counted in the number of transgender people who commit suicide this year," she wrote. A January 2014 survey referenced by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention found that 41 percent of transgender people attempt suicide, dramatically more than the 4.6 percent rate among the overall U.S. population.

In the aftermath of Alcorn's death, the news attracted attention from international media outlets and social media. Alcorn's parents were criticized for misgendering her and referring to her as their "son" on Facebook and in an interview with CNN. The hashtag #LeelahAlcorn trended on Twitter and candlelit vigils were held around Alcorn's home state of Ohio as well as in London, Washington D.C. and New York City. A petition to ban conversion therapy on minors in the United States, called Leelah's Law, accrued more than 300,000 signatures in a week.

"This issue is strongly connected to the Hamilton community. Through this vigil I want to inform our trans students of the organizations that are willing to provide them support," Acharya said. Isla Ng '16, Joany Lamur '17 and Emma Wilkinson '16 read poetry written by trans women of color to amplify the voices of this marginalized group.

"The poetry was very touching," Laura Whitmer '18 said. "I am glad to be on a campus with organizations that hold these types of events."

Around 40 students and staff gathered in the chapel on Wednesday. Alan Yeh '18 said it was uplifting to see such a turnout for the vigil. "I hope that we can continue to talk about and learn from these kinds of issues," Yeh said.

Diana Suder '18, meanwhile, expressed surprise that more people did not come. "But trans issues are ignored as a whole, so maybe it wasn't so surprising after all," she said. Nonetheless, Suder thought the vigil effectively showed support for Alcorn and the visibility of trans women.

After the reading, candles were passed around and all those in attendance observed a minute of silence. "I hope that we as a community can become more aware and understanding of trans identities and not render them invisible by misgendering them," Acharya said in closing.

Students enjoy helping the local community

from Day of Service, page 1

"What HAVOC tries to do is to provide opportunities to get involved in different ways, from multiple times a week to one-day events," Hunter explained. "Hopefully we provide something for everyone."

In regard to last Saturday's service day in particular, Goldberg said that the day is named "in honor of what [Martin Luther King] represented. We try to do it as close to MLK Day as possible."

Many individuals, teams and organizations signed up to take part in MLK Service Day, including the men's soccer team, the Kappa Sigma Alpha sorority and the women's rugby team. KSA members volunteered at the Utica Public Library, where they shelved books and reorganized DVDs. "The public library is a beautiful historic building that provides a safe learning and working environment for children and adults in Utica," said Sara Kleinman '15. However, due to a decrease in funding over the years, many local libraries, including this one, have become short-staffed.

Courtney Anderson '15 said, "While we were doing seemingly simple tasks like re-shelving books, the librarians really were grateful for our extra help." She added, "I participated in the day of service because I always find that I get to see Utica from a different lens when I volunteer on these service days."

Nathalia Mahabir '17, who spent the afternoon with patients at the Rome Nursing Home, enjoyed making new friends and hearing their stories. "The time I spent there made me appreciate everything that I had but also made me realize that sharing my happiness, my stories and my jokes with other people can make a huge difference." She added, "I think [MLK Service Day] was and will continue to be an opportunity for us to step outside of the bubble here at Hamilton...and put others before ourselves."

> **"There were definitely moments when everyone was completely present, and those were the most enriching."**
> *—Harris Pollack '17*

Members of the men's soccer team volunteered at Upstate Cerebral Palsy on Saturday. They played volleyball and basketball with the kids there while learning more about their interests. Harris Pollack '17 enjoyed meeting everyone, noting, "I think we were all impressed with how talented these children were... there were definitely moments when everyone was completely present, and those moments were the most enriching."

If you did not make it to last weekend's service event, there are many opportunities coming up later in the semester to look out for. As part of Feb Fest, HAVOC will run a card-making event for local cancer patients. Other service events will include Exploring Utica, in which small groups will volunteer and dine at local establishments, as well as Autism Awareness Month in April.

For more information on upcoming HAVOC events and how to get involved, email havoc@hamilton.edu.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the previous weekend's incidents each Thursday. The entire report is available in the online edition of *The Spectator*. Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

Thursday, January 22, 2015

4:05 p.m. Medical Emergency – Campus Safety

8:58 p.m. Medical Emergency – South Hall

11:35 p.m. Liquor Law Violations – South Hall

Friday, January 23, 2015

12:12 a.m. Noise Complaint – Milbank Hall

11:54 a.m. Medical Emergency – Blood Fitness Center

9:40 p.m. Marijuana Complaint – Dunham Hall

10:04 p.m. Noise Complaint – Ferguson House

10:35 p.m. Noise Complaint – Ferguson House

11:27 p.m. Medical Emergency – Sadove Center

11:40 p.m. Noise Complaint – Carnegie Hall

Saturday, January 23, 2015

12:02 a.m. Noise Complaint – Carnegie Hall

12:29 a.m. Liquor Law Violations – North Hall

1:21 a.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

2:58 p.m. Smoke Detector Activation – North Hall

4:12 p.m. Smoke Detector Activation – Eells House

8:42 p.m. Smoke Detector Activation – Dunham Hall

9:48 p.m. Smoke Detector Activation – Babbitt Hall

11:35 p.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

Sunday, January 24, 2015

12:00 a.m. Noise Complaint – Babbitt Hall

1:10 a.m. Trouble Alarm Activation – Milbank Hall

1:15 a.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

1:38 a.m Noise Complaint – South Hall

2:21 a.m. Medical Emergency – Dunham Hall

3:18 a.m. Medical Emergency – Wertimer Residence Hall

9:45 p.m. Harassment Complaint – College Hill Rd.

The underestimated value of political correctness

Journalists have always faced difficult ethical questions about what to publish and how, and in light of the attack on *Charlie Hebdo* as a result of their editorial decisions, these conversations about presentation seem pressing. In the densely entangled layers of questions that involve religious tolerance, the freedom of the press and western hegemony, the role of offense consistently appears as a core dispute. Whether or not you are going to offend someone is an answered question – you probably will, but whether or not that offense should be enough to stop you from publishing or speaking requires more consideration. Writers should ask themselves first: what is accomplished through offense and second, is there another way to achieve the same end while minimizing the offense to others. This second route is called being "politically correct," and while such correctness dangles somewhere between stifling and compassionate, there are definitely circumstances that require more attention to limiting offense more than others. The difference between *Enquiry* and *The Duel Observer* best highlights this circumstantial difference – the line between news and comedy.

As two news publications, *Enquiry* and *The Spectator* share several aims and limitations. Journalists attempt to disseminate information and provide analysis of that information. They precariously manage the marriage of letting your audience make their own decisions and telling their audiences what to think. Regardless of your focus or ideological position, though, the aim of journalism is providing information one way or another. Being offensive can be very out of place in this equation then. In reporting news, information should just present itself as objectively as possible. It may not be pretty, but it is the news. On the other hand opinions definitely open the door for offense more –if the reader disagrees with the writer, then the two face a certain impasse. Writers can mitigate this confrontation though by articulating opinions with rational argumentation and thoughtful language. They can hopefully explain their position without inciting unwarranted backlash. These two concepts are the anchors of good opinion writing, and only when they are flagrantly ignored do news publications find themselves facing significant reproach.

In contrast *The Duel Observer*, and any other satirical publication, is spared from these concerns for offense and rationale because comedy is a very different beast. While newspapers must consistently aim to inform their audiences judiciously, comedians can do anything from thoroughly informing their audience to endlessly amusing them. Comedic theorists can debate the means and ends of comedy for a long time, but at the end of the day comedy can still afford to take its job lightly because there is not the same expectation of accuracy or reality. This is why *The Spectator* implores *Enquiry*, and any other journalistic publication on Hamilton's campus, to articulate opinions with facts and tact. Having an opinion and inciting offense are not mutually inclusive, and the latter can sometimes be avoided. We understand that being politically correct can be maddening and draining, but our audiences should expect nuance and professionalism, not off-the-cuff jabs and heat of the moment calls to patriotism.

***The Spectator* editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.**

twitter
Follow us
@HCSpectator

Visit *The Spectator* online:
students.hamilton.edu/spectator
facebook.com/hcspectator

***The Spectator* is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely and high-quality publication.**

Please Recycle Your Copy of *The Spectator*

Celebrating our 166th year in print. First published as The Radiator *in 1848.*

THE SPECTATOR

Editor-in-Chief
Ben Fields

Managing Editors
Shannon O'Brien
Sirianna Santacrose

News Editors
Dan Snyder
Kirsty Warren

Editorial Editor
Kevin Welsh

Features Editors
Sophie Gaulkin
Ilana Schwartz

Production Editors
Pat Marris
Emily Moore

Opinion Editors
Hady Hewidy
Cesar Renero

Sports Editors
Tucker Hamlin
Max Newman

Photography Editors
Michelle Chapman
Elizabeth Comatos

Arts & Entertainment Editors
Brian Burns
Haley Lynch

Web Editor
Zach Batson

Senior Editors
Jack Cartwright
Patrick English

Copy Editors:

Natalie Adams, Rebecca Gaines, Audrey Nadler, Julie Lin, Alan Yeh, Junpei Taguchi, Anna McCloskey,

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. The Spectator reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. Subscriptions are $60 per year. For more information about subscriptions e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

Charlie Hebdo, and why we are ultimately to blame

by Cesar Renero '17
Opinion Editor

There has been much discussion surrounding the recent attacks on *Charlie Hebdo*, with reactions ranging from unwavering support for the humor magazine's staff, to condemning the content of the publication. The focus of the conversation should shift away from concentrating on hate speech and freedom of speech. Instead, we should concern ourselves with the ease with which terrorist attacks can be carried out today, and the global context that Europe and North America has created that means these attacks will continue to happen.

I believe the magazine was within its freedom-of-speech rights to publish cartoons of Mohammed. If *The Spectator* decided to publish an explicit cartoon of Jesus and the Apostles, I would expect the Christian community on the Hill to voice their outrage, express condemnation for the depiction and even request funding to be rescinded from our publication. But it would not be illegal; no libel, slander, hate speech or defamation laws would be broken, because Jesus, just like Mohammed, is not a person to whom those laws apply. Nevertheless, being a publication, there are standards of decency and good taste that *should* be followed, but do not legally have to be respected.

What I find more worrying is that people are concentrating on whether we should express solidarity with *Charlie Hebdo*, given that their content could be misconstrued as offensive. When we doubt unconditional support for the victims of terrorism we are effectively on the road to considering acts of terrorism as valid criticism. Judging the work of assassinated cartoonists to determine to what extent we should mourn them is not just odious or petty, it goes against our intrinsic sense of human solidarity. It is this basic human instinct of fraternity that a battlefield doctor would use when treating injured enemy combatants.

There is also a generalized problem regarding the Western depiction of Mohammed, and a bigoted ignorance of the nuanced spectrum of Islam. For example, the AHI publication *Enquiry* recently stated in its latest leading article that "[it's] become harder to ignore Islam's penchant for horrendous acts of violence." This is characterizing the problem of terrorism entirely within the realm of Islam, which is roughly similar to judging all Christians based on the actions of the Westboro Baptist Church. Worryingly, Americans seem to take the view that the radicalism that has propelled recent terrorist attacks is an inherent problem of Islam. Instead, we should be recognizing the profound role the United States has played in the formation of Islamist terrorism; from the near-sighted and reckless funding of the Mujahideen in 1980s Afghanistan, to the catatonic and hypocritical amity we still maintain with Saudi Arabia, which is one of the most intolerant regimes in the world that continues to fund radical and extremist groups.

Furthermore, we should concentrate on the ways Europe should integrate the large influx of Muslim immigrants. As Brendon Kaufmann '15 suggested last week, the solution does not lie with banning the burqa in French public schools, or other similarly anti-Muslim actions. Instead, French public schools should begin teaching Arabic, for example, just like American public schools offer Spanish classes, partly in an attempt to bridge the divide between Hispanic immigrants and the rest of Americans. It may be hard for some Europeans to digest this diagrammatic shift in their culture, but unless they expect to have more children from now on, they will have to accept the fact that Muslim immigrants will ultimately form the majority of Europe's growth in the not-too-distant future.

But what can we do here on the Hill? The topic of terrorism is one that concerns us all, not only as residents of the United States, but as we join the rank and file of the next generation of diplomats, politicians, businesspeople, activists and cartoonists. The Hamilton community should focus more on the US-related causes of terrorism, because if you have ever talked to anyone from the Middle East, you quickly realize that the causes are much closer to home than we originally thought. Perhaps instead of sending countless drones that haunt the lives of innocents in our quest to eliminate "terror," we should reconsider the role the US and Europe play in the formation of extremism. From our misguided Middle Eastern diplomacy, to the failure of the US and European countries' institutions to salvage unprivileged youths from the attraction of radicalism, the onus rests squarely on us to start the conversation, spark debate, and think of solutions we have the power to influence. Rather than question the extent to which we support martyred creators, we should be instead creating the circumstances to prevent such an attack from ever happening again.

EXPATFINANCIAL.COM

The Hamilton community should begin to ponder the effect the US and other Western countries have on the causes of terrorism.

Naive oversimplification should not be intellectually permissible

by Hady Hewidy '17
Opinion Editor

The Lion King is a fantastic Disney classic that most of our generation grew up watching. It features a rather typical narrative: a definite hero and a concrete villain; there is no room for any complexity or greyness in the characters. In fact, the biggest mistake Mufasa and Simba—the film's heroes—make is that they are overly trusting and gentle with the villain, Scar. That naive understanding of our world was perhaps acceptable when we were younger; we cannot teach a five-year-old the sophisticated nature of people and the world that surrounds them. Yet as we all grow intellectually, to the point where we now attend an elite institution such as Hamilton, it becomes nothing but idiotic to describe our world with the same naïveté as *The Lion King*'s narrative.

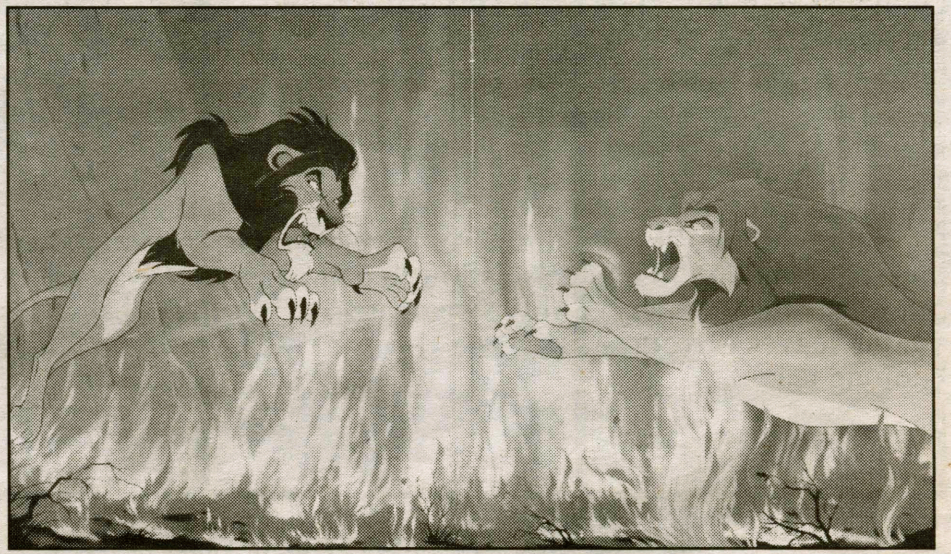
The tendency to oversimplify our worldviews could be easily explained: oversimplifying is easy, and as lazy creatures, we always seek the easiest path. Nonetheless, a second, stronger incentive, to simplify emerges when the issue is directly, or even distantly, related to us. If we oversimplify our worldviews into black-and-white heroes and villains, we could enjoy the advantage of classifying ourselves as heroes. It feels good to be the good guy and to describe the rest as bad. More importantly, viewing ourselves as the heroes allows us to label our actions—no matter how positive or even questionable—as being completely justifiable. Unfortunately, we must face the ugly truth that in this variously shaded world, there are no absolutes.

Political and social debates are a very clear example of our tendency to oversimplify. Alas, I too acknowledge that the oversimplification of political and social debates is easily observable on our campus, and this is concerning for a few reasons.

First, oversimplification reduces and diminishes the possibility of meaningful discussion; in fact, it supersedes its need.

Second, oversimplification, and those who are responsible for it, should not have a place in Hamilton's nuanced intellectual community that is supposed to foster critical thinking and insightful analysis.

Third, and most importantly, oversimplification has caused real damage both to our world in general, and to our community in particular. Let's take the attacks on *Charlie Hebdo* as an example. Since I came back to campus from winter break, I have heard and read a wide range of views from both extremes of the spectrum. On one side, I heard an argument that the attacks is a result of France's racism and biased secularity. On the other side, I read an argument that posits that Islam and its followers literally are the source of all the evil in this world. As I listened to both sides, I assumed—and hoped—that there was no inherent background of hate or racism that motivated these two extreme views; I hoped that both views are only a product of oversimplification, and ignorance of course. Yet these views are still problematic. One-sided oversimplification should not be intellectually permissible in our campus. I do not believe that any opinion should be silenced, but I think that the ones who oversimplify deserve to be labeled bigots.


NOCOOKIE.NET

Hamilton's intellectual community should dismiss oversimplified arguments. We do not live in a good-versus-evil world.

January admits disadvantaged due to Hamilton policies

by Gregory Nabhan '18
Opinion Contributor

HAMILTON.EDU

Cheerful Orientation Leaders welcome the January admits in Sadove.

Every spring semester, about 35 January admits come to Hamilton at an awkward time to be first-year students. While classmates have mostly already found their college identities with clubs and friends, January admits find themselves stuck playing catch-up in an entirely novel environment, both socially and academically.

As questions arise as to why they are denied admission until January, most students on campus would agree to a slight perception of inferiority surrounding Jans. "The outside stigma looking in at Jans is true," said January admit Will Driscoll '15, "they probably think we're pretty dumb and don't deserve to be here." While Driscoll chuckled at his comments, they certainly resonate with current first-year Jan Adam Stern's concern of a predisposed belief about Jan rowdiness on weekends. "The stereotype is that the Jans tend to be these big party-type people…it creates an expectation."

With most Jans spending the semester studying with Arcadia University in London, they return with fun stories to tell. However, in terms of finding their place socially at Hamilton, all Jans interviewed reported initial feelings of uneasiness. "It felt like we just got thrown into it real quickly…I felt extremely overwhelmed," said first-year Jan Jesse Heekin. Orientation did not seem to help either. "We were with the same 30 kids we had been with in London…Games getting to know [each other] better were pointless." However, naturally due to the small nature of Hamilton, Jans report campus wide friendliness to meet them (there was never a time last week without a recent "All Jans come to destination X" Yik Yak), and the initial shock of so many new faces will likely fade.

One week into their first semester at Hamilton, first-year Jans stressed social adjustment as their biggest challenge. Driscoll, however, three years further along, stated that, "The academic adjustment is definitely more challenging than the social [adjustment]." Driscoll came from an NYU sponsored program in London, of which he spoke very highly. Conversely, first-year Jans expressed universal disgust in the quality of education that the Arcadia London program offered them. On his studies last semester, said Heekin "There were no moments I felt challenged,". "I definitely worked harder in high school than I did in London." While the Jans cited boring, repetitive classes and a comically weak workload as partial reason for their lack of satisfaction, they also revealed that their Arcadia GPA does not transfer onto their Hamilton transcripts. This effectively turns their classes into pass/fail. "Even if there was a test or paper, I didn't feel challenged because I knew it didn't really matter…It's gonna be tough getting that work ethic back that I used to have," admitted Heekin. His feelings seem to summarize that of the rest of the group.

While taking classes in London, Jans are technically not enrolled as Hamilton students yet. However, taking part in the program that the school directs them to should serve as reason enough to provide them with the same quality of education that students on campus receive. Holding Jans to an equal academic standard will prepare them, rather than hinder them, for the challenges at Hamilton, and will also cast away the untrue stereotypes about them on campus. While initial social anxiety and lack of immediate social connections affect all first year students alike (making pre-orientation mandatory will decrease that even further), putting students at a disadvantage academically should not be tolerated.

Thumbs Up

Mainstage has been cast: Congrats to Wynn Van Dusen and Shea Crockett for receiving the roles of Sharpay and Ryan Evans.

Social Host/TIPS Workshops: Learn that hosting an incredible rager is easy when you just keep the TIPS acronym in mind: "Tequila! I Party! Sex!"

Greek Rush: We heard that if you read Infinite Jest in the glen at midnight, you'll see an invitation to a Sig rush event appear in the leaves of your oolong tea.

Thumbs Down

Add/Drop Period: We only need one more signature in order to drop our periods, but Mother Nature's office hours are impossible.

The flu's going around: Anyone not worried already has mono.

"Is Hamilton Good For Your Body Image?" Email: "Yes" answers the chiseled reflection of one hot guy on the hockey team. A resounding "no" from everyone else's fourth day in a row sweatpants.

Who Cares?

Carrie's LDR with Jessye: Jessye keeps saying she can't Skype me because she's at work, but yesterday she posted an Instagram of her and her colleagues at a bar at 5PM. I thought you got off of work at 8.

Jessye's LDR with Carrie: Carrie said I can't keep ignoring her calls and going to bars instead. I work as a bartender, Carrie.

Juno doesn't make it to Hamilton: Failing to write eloquently about how your teen pregnancy changed your life and caused the gaps on your transcript will land you at a safety like Colgate.

by Jessye McGarry '16 and Carrie Solomon '16

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

We want YOU

…to write for *The Spectator*!

Email spec@hamilton.edu if you are interested.

Bachelor and Bachelorette

Will Wassmer '16

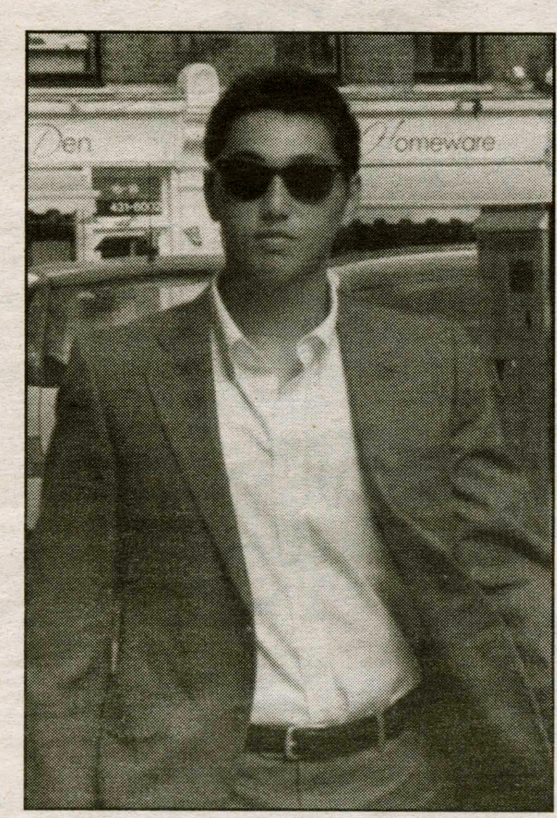


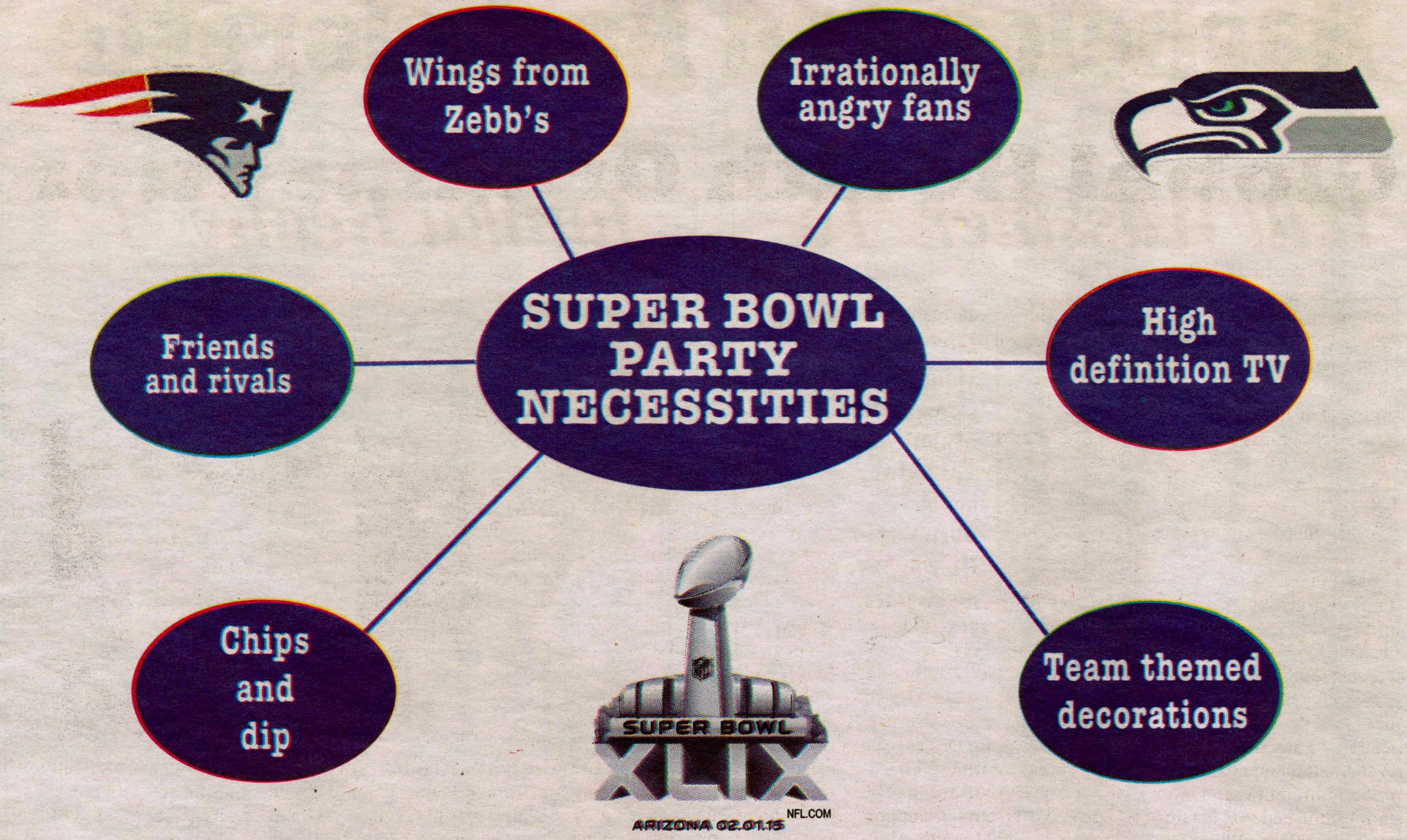
PHOTO COURTESY OF WILL WASSMER '16

Hometown: *Wilton, CT/London, U.K.*
Home on Campus: *Carnegie.*
Major: *Biology.*
Turn On? *Easy-going.*
Turn Off? *Temper.*
Do you have any nicknames? *"Wass."*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Saunders. Not many people know about it, but everyone wishes they had it once they find out it exists.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *"Have you been to the hammocks?"*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Paella, it's a mix of a lot of things, but in the end it's too good to resist.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *Under my blanket.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Hamilton Fine Dining Society... Oh wait; I started that club, because I can cook.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *To sneak onto the South roof, so I can hit some golf balls and drink with my friends up there.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *I don't have one.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *I don't have a faculty crush because I haven't had many female professors.*
What would your perfect date be? *I'd cook dinner, probably paella and chocolate fondue, then watch* How I Met Your Mother *(*Scrubs *and* New Girl *are also acceptable options).*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *An old school, 10-inch screen box TV is on my desk.*
What fact about you surprises people the most? *I have three passports.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *Disneyland's–"The happiest place on earth."*
What's your type? *Fun, smart and funny.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick? *Mariah Carey and Billy Joel.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Soccer, Netflix and Food.*
What TV genre best describes you? *Comedy.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Mixing single malt scotch with anything.*
What's the best book you read in the last year? A Fraction of the Whole *by Steve Toltz.*

Janika Beatty '17

PHOTO COURTESY OF JANIKA BEATTY '17

Hometown: *Malden, M.A.*
Home on Campus: *Kirkland.*
Major: *Women's Studies and World Politics.*
Turn On? *Sense of humor.*
Turn Off? *Being an Iggy Azalea fan.*
Do you have any nicknames? *"Queen," "Goddess" and "Problematic Fav #1."*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Rogers because my turn-up is so real, I should be forced to be sub-free.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *"Hey, you want to see what the Kirkland RA room looks like?"*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *A potato because I am lumpy, brown and round.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *The shower.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *The AHI or even* Enquiry.
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Aesthetic discernment.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Is it uncouth to say myself?*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Does Jesus count?*
What would your perfect date be? *A nice human gives me their credit card and allows me to shop for days and does not speak to me ever again.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *I have a can of clam chowder.*
What fact about you surprises people the most? *I'm Jewish.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"If it doesn't get all over the place, it doesn't belong in your face."*
What's your type? *People who can appreciate good honey mustard.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick? *Kanye West and Ke$ha.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Black lipstick, an eyebrow stencil and Sved.*
What TV genre best describes you? *Telenovelas.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Skipping leg day—you can't be beautiful up top and gross down below.*
What's the best book you read in the last year? *That one that Kendall and Kylie Jenner paid someone to write for them.*



Senior Reflection

Do Less: A Case Study in Procrastination

by Grace Bowers '15
Features Contributor

PHOTO COURTESY OF GRACE BOWERS '15

My tendency towards extreme procrastination has yet to lessen since arriving on the Hill three and a half years ago. Despite the horrible feelings of anxiety and exhaustion that accompany late nights in Burke and last-minute, 20-page papers, I have always loved putting things off. However, the things I procrastinate on have changed throughout my time at Hamilton as I have changed, both as a student, and a person.

As a first-year, I was involved in a stupidly large amount of activities. As one of the few not from "the City" or "just-outside-Boston," I felt the need to join every club that promised potential friends. From Student Assembly to joining the crew team to rushing a sorority, I was the definition of all-over-the-place. I was gone for weekend races, I was at rush events and I was constantly at committee meetings for Student Assembly. Beyond all of these commitments, it was my ability to procrastinate that prevailed. Whether it was handing in my design projects still wet with paint from that morning or sending in assignments as I sprinted across campus to my 9 a.m. biology lecture, sacrificing time spent working for time spent with my friends is ultimately what I will remember. And, even though I sacrificed many hours of sleep (much to the chagrin of my roommate), my favorite moments of procrastination were spent attempting five-minute workouts in the Minor common room, racing to fill in state maps of the United States and last minute decisions to attend Avicii concerts.

Sophomore year was only slightly different from my first year in these respects: Bundy East replaced Minor, the Ho Chi Minh trail replaced the trek to the Darkside and off-campus trips became a reality with the long-awaited car privileges for sophomores. My ability to avoid work, luckily, survived the transition and manifested itself in early-mornings spent struggling to read Plato and attempting to learn statistics. Though I no longer participated in Student Assembly, my role in my sorority increased as rush events began. I found myself loving the creativity involved with rush and event planning, especially in place of studying Art History slides and doing extra crew workouts. My favorite moments not working were spent watching hours of YouTube videos with friends on my broken futon, making it to Diner B despite the arctic wind, cocktail hours in the Bundy quad and living in a gross, but lovable, hallway with all of my best friends.

Junior year was completely different. I migrated from Bundy to the G-road apartments for the fall. Back to living in a double, I existed almost exclusively in the library or in friends' suites on campus with the crazy workloads that any junior can expect to have. Although a majority of friends were abroad, I became close with those I had never known before. The social events were different than the previous years too. With the newly changed rush-pledge cycle, the fall was quieter. However, despite the newness of this slow-paced semester, I loved procrastinating with trips to Panera, long chats sitting in the parking lot and 'perfecting' my cooking skills. The spring brought me to Rome, where I explored my ability to survive the Italian subway, and tested the limits of how much I could eat before getting sick. Some nights were spent memorizing information about ancient Rome and watching Italian films, but more nights were spent traipsing across Europe.

Finally, senior year has been filled with conflicted emotions of excitement for the future and enjoyment of the familiarity of friends and professors, but it is also filled with moments of fear and anxiety about the unknowns beyond graduation. More immediate anxieties include those of thesis woes, work deadlines and questions of what on earth I will be doing next year. Regardless of these real issues I will need to confront very, very soon, it is my procrastinating moments that have been so memorable thus far. Following my retirement from the crew team and tour guiding, I've had so much more free time to be with the people I care about. Even simple activities with friends, like morning trips to Dunkin Donuts, laughing over plates of chicken fingers, spontaneous sing-a-longs and watching old movies snuggled under covers are the moments when I realize that Hamilton has provided me with beautiful things: love, friendship and an understanding of who I am.

As a psychology major, I write papers with takeaway points. What was the relevance of the study? Why does it matter? Well, the takeaway from my experience at Hamilton is that you should spend less time stressing about work and living in the library (which I am guilty of doing), and more time doing things that seem silly and pointless because those are the moments that will last in your memory.

Hamilton is a special place full of special people, and it is so essential that you ("occasionally") procrastinate work in order to spend time with the great people you go to school with. Do a little less and enjoy the ride—it will be over before you know it.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT:

Global Health Organization

by Rachel Landman '15
Features Contributor

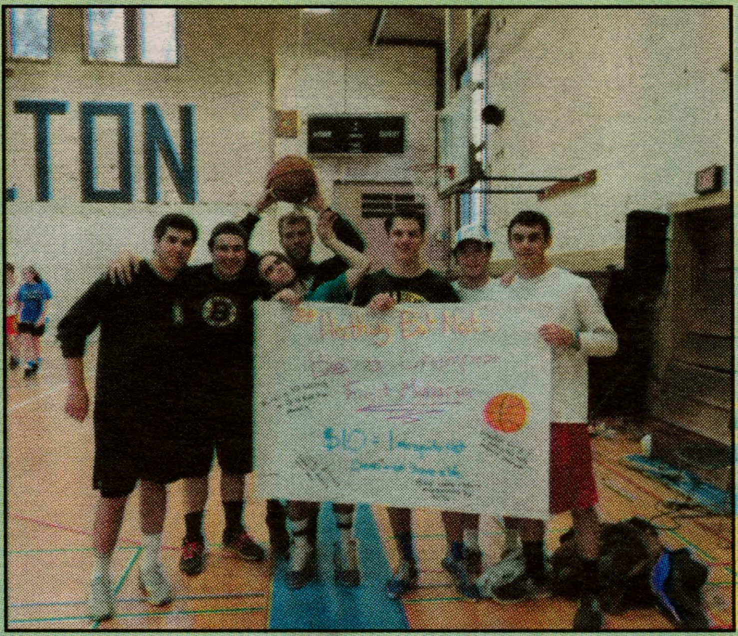
What do the NBA, MLS, Stephen Curry and Hamilton College Global Health Organization all have in common? A partnership with Nothing But Nets, a global grassroots campaign of the United Nations Foundation to fight malaria, a leading killer of children in Africa. Nothing But Nets was created in 2006 by the United Nations Foundation, with the help of sports columnist Rick Reilly. Every 60 seconds a child dies from malaria, but it is preventable.

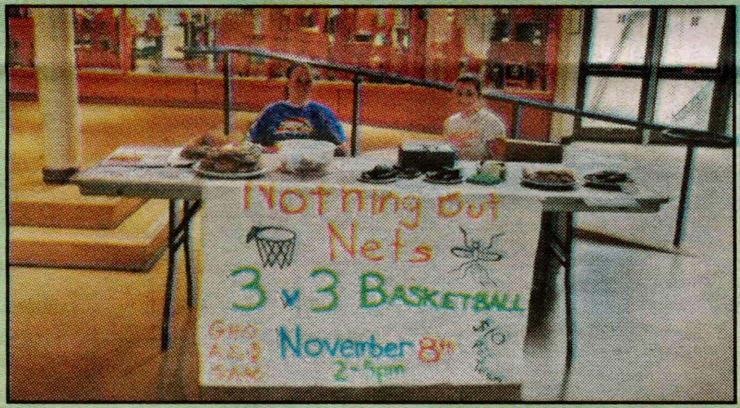
Nothing But Nets saves countless lives by delivering insecticide-treated bed nets to prevent malaria and has raised over $50 million to send more than 7 million bed nets to families in need. Malaria kills many, but saving a life is as easy as sending a $10 net.

The start of this semester marks the second year of the partnership between the GHO and Nothing But Nets. Although other partners such as the NBA have a bit more reach, the partnership between the Global Health Organization and Nothing But Nets has had a very successful first year. Through this partnership, the GHO has been able to assist Nothing But Nets in both fundraising and advocacy.

Members from the GHO have attended meetings with congressional representatives and staff members in Washington, D.C. and right here at Hamilton. During these meetings, students got the opportunity to educate members from their representatives' offices about the important cause. They have discussed support for several global health initiatives, such as the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. In honor of World Malaria Day last spring, a member from New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's office came to campus to meet with three members of the GHO, Abby Armstrong '15, Hannah Trautmann '15 and Rachel Landman '15, to discuss the Senator's support for the PMI and Global Fund. Although this partnership is for the GHO to help the Nothing But Nets campaign, members of the club have also gained valuable experience about grassroots advocacy and fundraising.

During the first year of the partnership, the GHO held two major fundraising 3v3 basketball tournaments. The first tournament last spring was a huge success with over 100 participants who raised $1,000. Recently, the second (now annual) tournament exceeded expectations through the help of a partnership with the Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity. This tournament, held last fall, had over 150 participants and raised $2,000. The Global Health Organization is excited about the success of this partnership with Nothing But Nets in its effort to both make an impact on and off Hamilton's campus.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHELLE CHAPMAN '17

Looking forward into the second year of this partnership, both organizations have high expectations for future efforts. A primary goal for this semester is to reach out to local congressional representatives to discuss updates on the President's Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, as well as to recruit and educate other students about global health initiatives. As World Malaria Day (April 25th) and Earth Day (April 22nd) both occur during the same week, the Global Health Organization hopes to partner with the Hamilton Environmental Action Group (HEAG). They would like to run a "bottles for net" recycling drive that promotes recycling in honor of Earth Day while raising money to send mosquito bed nets to sub-Saharan Africa to increase awareness of World Malaria Day.

Every partnership from that of students to CEOs has helped Nothing But Nets create progress in the fight to end malaria. Since 2000, deaths from malaria have fallen by nearly 50% in children under five, saving an estimated 3.3 million lives. Stephen Curry was inspired to get involved with Nothing But Nets by his college roommate at Davidson, and has now sent over 1,500 bed nets. Stories such as this inspire the work of the Global Health Organization on our campus.

From Where I Sit:

Hamilton's International Perspectives

by Muhammad Najib '18
Features Contributor

I almost missed my flight on August 20th. I had to take a flight from Islamabad to arrive at Hamilton College. On that day, the people of Pakistan rose in protest against the government and marched all the way from Lahore to the Parliament in Islamabad. Although the peaceful, the protest led to the blockage of important routes and made it almost impossible to reach the airport. Although I eventually made it to the airport, I was caught between two strange feelings: fear of missing my flight and delight for the people of Pakistan. At last, Pakistanis had politically woken up.

Despite the shaky start to my first flight, it was a smooth journey thereon. Just as the flight started off in a surprising way, there were other surprises that awaited me. However, this time they were rather pleasant and offered an interesting contrast to the culture and country from where I came. I signed up for the college van to pick me from the airport, and I was amazed to see two things: one, the Dean of International Students came to pick me up and second, he drove the van himself! Now, if you were in Pakistan, where classism exists, a dean would never drive a college van. Come to think of it, he wouldn't even drive his own car. The college also paid for the airport overnight stay which was rather nice and yet another example of the perks of being an international student at Hamilton.

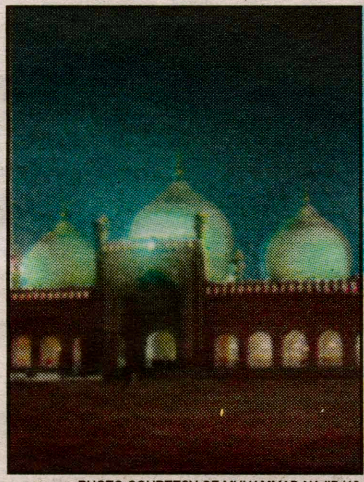


PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHAMMAD NAJIB '18

With so much excitement in the air and so many new people on campus to meet, orientation week was incredibly fun. It started off with a breakfast for all incoming international students and proceeded with fun games and activities. A week-long orientation is not typical of colleges in Pakistan, or in the majority of countries, so it was refreshing to have a fun start to college.

The differences between the college systems in the United States and Pakistan do not end there. First, in the United States, you have enough freedom and time to choose your major, while you have to declare your major before applying to a college in Pakistan. Not only can we choose our majors here, but we also have the freedom to take classes from any department. Moreover, in Pakistan I studied in a high school that followed a British examining system. This system meant that exams were only held at end of the year instead of throughout the semester, with a plethora of homework and exams. It was quite apparent from the first week of classes here that slacking off until the last few weeks was not going to bear any fruit. Most importantly, academics in colleges here go hand in hand with sports, which is not the case in many other countries, including Pakistan. Students, and the whole educational system, are quite grade-oriented, while sports and extracurricular activities have little importance. It was quite refreshing to see student clubs receiving a large amount of funding to work with for whatever they choose.

Culture shock is a huge part of coming to America as an international student. Fortunately, for a student from South Asia, and especially Pakistan, it is rather easy to absorb the culture shock. The British might have left the Indian subcontinent six decades ago, but the influence and culture is strongly present in the country. People in India and Pakistan are unbelievably westernized, which helps with the culture shock.

Finally, I would just like to mention two great things about Pakistan that everyone should know. Pakistan, having three mountain ranges and the second highest peak in the world, K-2, is incredibly gorgeous in the Northern part. Second, its rich history, replete with marauding armies and changing dynasties, dates back to 2500 B.C.E. when the Indus River valley civilization existed.

Although leaving my home to come here has presented me with some difficulties, Hamilton has certainly helped to make the transition a smooth one.

"From Where I Sit" is a column dedicated to the international voices of Hamilton's campus. If you are an international student interested in contributing, contact Ilana Schwartz (ischwart@hamilton.edu) or Sophie Gaulkin (sgaulkin@hamilton.edu).

Theatre department is a-buzz with *Spelling Bee* sucess

by Haley Lynch '17
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Three years ago, Hamilton College's Theatre Department developed the Bare Naked Theatre, which would help to support student and faculty projects that would not fit within any other programs offered by the Theatre Department. These independent projects would be presented to a board for approval and provided with a modest budget afterward.

Last spring, Eliza Burwell '17 and Charlie Wilson '16 envisioned an entirely student-run performance of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, a one-act musical comedy. Students would produce it with funding from student theatre group Untitled@Large through the Student Assembly, as well as with the support of the Bare Naked Theatre, to represent the very first entirely student-run production to be put on in this manner. During the months of June through October, Burwell and Wilson met with members of the Hamilton College faculty to discuss plans for actualizing this dream. Burwell, as a Music/Theatre double major, would function as the music director and co-producer, and would also play keyboard in the pit orchestra. Wilson has performed in many Hamilton productions as an actor himself, but for this project he would become the director and co-producer.

Professor Mark Cryer acted as a liaison between the students and the Theatre Department. He, along with several other faculty members, helped to negotiate a contract and secure funding for the project. As the plan began to take shape, Burwell and Wilson reached out to other students to expand the production staff. This ultimately included Rachel Eimas-Dietrich '17 as stage manager, Sarah Hoover '18 as properties manager and Chris Williams '17 as technical/lighting designer.

Auditions to fill in the cast and pit orchestra were held at the end of September. A total of nine actors and eight musicians were accepted and thrice weekly rehearsals began for each group beginning in October. Adelaide Fuller '17 directed the orchestra.

The 23 students involved even came back from winter break a week early to ensure that everything was in order in time for the performance, which was to be held in the Barrett Theatre in the new Kennedy Center.

Burwell commented that an entirely student-run production in the new theatre is especially significant this year, as the new arts building has just opened. She said, "It seemed like a good idea to show alums that we're actually using the new theatres their money has given us." The new spaces are most certainly being used to their utmost advantage— and their use has been very popular.

As soon as tickets were made available, both of the originally scheduled shows were completely sold out within the first six hours. The musical was so popular that the group elected to stage a matinée performance— this one without the option of reservation— in order to appease the many disappointed fans who had not been able to reserve tickets originally.

Finally, the weekend of the performances arrived. The new Barrett Theatre was completely packed. Chairs for the audience were set all the way up to the stage, almost too close for comfort. Without a doubt the show is fun and funny, and was carried out flawlessly by the students. It was originally conceived of as an improvisational play, and elements of this improvised foundation were peppered throughout the production. Audience members were pulled in to participate and were mocked by members of the cast, and several lines were twisted to incorporate current popular culture references.

The show overall was very cleverly executed. The orchestra played wonderfully, providing a perfect dramatic backdrop against which the actors could sing their hilarious numbers – a crowd favorite being "My Unfortunate Erection," sung by Ben Goldman '17. Every member of the cast and orchestra performed beautifully.

Mark Cryer commented, "with the addition of the new building and a second theatre, these student generated productions are easier to produce and will become regular staples of the theatre department and on campus." The success of this performance will most certainly encourage more students to work with the Bare Naked Theatre to produce their own performances in the future.

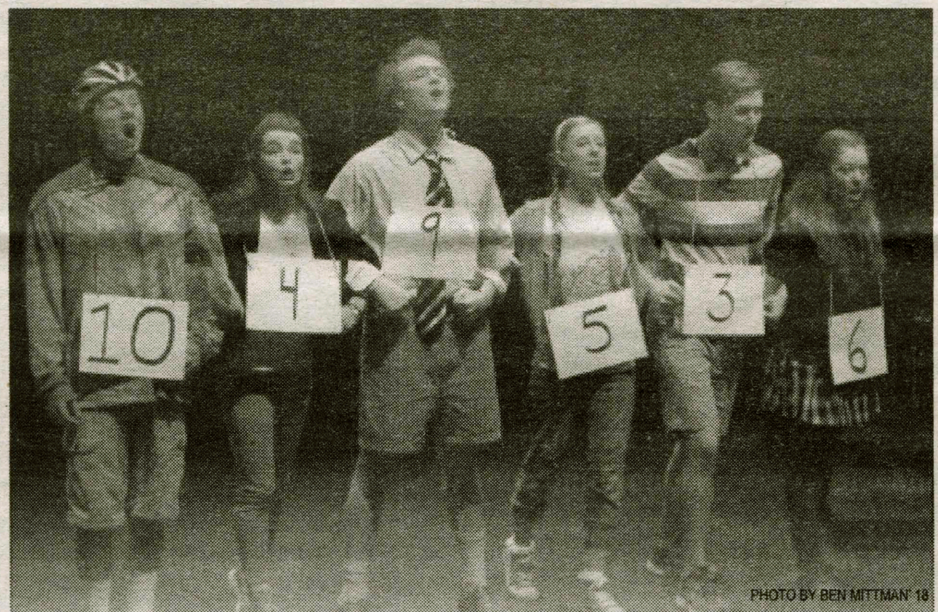


PHOTO BY BEN MITTMAN '18

From the left: Tommy Bowden '18, Meghan Gehan '18, Collin Purcell '17, Catherine Daigle '17, Ben Goldman '17, and Caitlin McQuade '18.

WHCL 88.7FM

Show Profile:

Rivalry Sports Talk

Mondays at Noon

with...

Tucker Hamlin '17, Jack Vissicchio '17, and Jon Cohen '17

Rivalry Sports Talk Radio is the next brand of college radio. The hosts will provide every listener their fix of the latest sports news. With special guests and analysts reporting from across the country, Rivalry Sports Talk is set to give sports fans insightful and entertaining news every week.

WIKIPEDIA.COM

OFFICIALPSDS.COM

We do not feel there are many sports talk radio shows, but what makes us unique is the rivalry. We are from Boston and New York, two of the most storied sports cities in the world, and we love getting in arguments about teams, players and controversial issues.

Countdown to the Academy Awards: *Selma* is an incendiary masterstroke

by Brian Burns '17
Arts & Entertainment Editor

As a lead-up to the Academy Awards on Feb. 22, The Spectator *will be publishing a series on the nominated films. First up is* Selma, *nominated for Best Picture and Best Original Song ("Glory" by John Legend and Common) but snubbed in the Best Actor and Best Director races.*

Selma is an intelligent, bold and impassioned chronicle of a crucial turning point for the Martin Luther King, Jr.-led Civil Rights movement. The year is 1965, it has been years since the March on Washington and the "I Have a Dream" speech and the Voting Rights Act has been signed by LBJ. However, the civil rights leader is still chipping away at the Jim Crow laws that prevent black citizens from voting in the South. Dr. King sets his sights on Selma as the battleground for voting rights, and stages a protest that he hopes will convince the president, and the nation, of the importance of continued focus on the South.

While primarily a character study of Martin Luther King, Jr., the film succeeds due to its evocation of a time and a place, specifically the South as the racially segregated states stood on the precipice of radical change. The film captures the anger, the fear and the suffering that the men and women fighting on the front lines of change experienced, risking their lives for the hopes of a better tomorrow. Most of all, Selma is notable for its suggestion that the fight of the civil rights leaders isn't over, for the ghost of 1965 America still haunts the U.S. today. *Selma* is a powder keg of a film that, once it explodes, proves that it deserves to etch its name in the American consciousness.

David Oyelowo embodies Martin Luther King Jr. convincingly at home and at the pulpit (which is even more astonishing a feat considering that the filmmakers were unable to use any of Dr. King's speeches due to rights issues). This representation of King is not a stoic leader, like the statues he inspired. Instead, he is painted as doubting his own motivations, debating whether his means of achieving freedom are worth the pain required. In a scene in a jail cell in Selma, King asks one of his advisors whether his protest will achieve any real change. "We build the path, brick by brick," his friend responds, articulating that the ripple effects of King's efforts will be felt in generations to come. King's desire to be reassured is a recurring theme in the film. At one moment, he is about to embark on a trip to Selma despite his wife's protests. Deeply conflicted, he phones a famous gospel singer and asks her to sing to him for his comfort (this event actually occurred, as the time stamp on the film makes clear).

King is portrayed as thoughtful during the film. The first shot of the film, which sees King finessing his acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize, is a telling sign of what is to come . He relied not on instinct, but on careful preparation and deliberation. At one point in the film, young activist John Lewis (now a Congressman from Georgia)expresses his disappointment with King's reluctance to march on a day when the Selma police force leave the marchers a clear path. King delicately explains how doing so at the time would be counterintuitive to the best interests of the marchers. Oyelowo manages to make Dr. King's thoughtfulness in between his speeches compelling (Oyelowo was snubbed for an Oscar nomination for Best Actor, despite being the actor behind the first notable portrayal of Dr. King onscreen).

King is more than a methodical thinker in the film—he is shown in his roles as a husband and a friend. When he arrives at the house in Selma where his group is staying, King and his fellow activists, which include talented supporting players, such as Common as James Bevel and Wendell Pierce from *The Wire* as Hosea Williams, poke fun at each other for not sticking to their diets. His friends call him "Doc" and he is shown to be a democratic leader of men. King's relationship with Coretta Scott King (Carmen Ejogo) in *Selma* is more complicated. This is the first mainstream movie to acknowledge Martin Luther King's infidelities, something not necessarily learned in a textbook. However, despite the distance this causes between husband and wife at one point in the film, King's love for his wife is clearly deep. The willingness to explore this aspect of King's life demonstrates bravery on the part of the filmmakers—here was the man, warts and all.

David Oyelowo stands tall as MLK Jr. in this Best Picture nominee.

Dr. King's status as a master tactician is on display in *Selma*. The film pulls back the curtain on why King's method of nonviolence worked —not because of the protests themselves, but because of the combustible nature of their opponents' reactions. King emphasizes the importance of cameras at the scene, and his insistence on a global audience for his protest is proven to be correct when the Selma police force unleashes on protestors on Bloody Sunday. Here, director Ava DuVernay's camera is similarly untethered, charging into the fray. On the Edmund Pettus bridge, blood flows, bones crackle and faces are slammed into the asphalt. Men and women are struck down by policemen on horseback, lashed by the snap of whips and the blunt force of Billy clubs. It is not even a fair fight—the cowards lash, out while the real heroes take the blows. When the marchers return to town in defeat, a deep rage will inevitably ignite in the viewer. One feels the desire to enter the frame and unleash their wrath on the Selma police force, to fight back. Witnessing the beatings of Bloody Sunday makes Martin Luther King's policy to resist resorting to violence seem like an even more courageous prospect.

Watching *Selma*, the viewer is taken back to Bloody Sunday and the outrage it inspired as its images were splayed across America's TV sets. However, the fact that that anger is not alien to this generation is a testament to the fact that America still has ways to go to achieve equality. *Selma* comes in the wake of Ferguson, events which played out on the television sets of every living room in America. Some shots in *Selma* of Billy clubs and tear-gassed civilians look as though they could have been taken yesterday. *Selma* is in no way an artifact of the past, proof of what we have overcome. It is as much a film for 2015 as it is for 1965.

Selma was criticized for its depiction of LBJ—I believe wrongfully. Iit is odd that the same allegations have not been lobbed at questionable historical dramas such as *American Sniper*. Not only is the president treated with compassion (though no one escapes the shades of gray that are also applied to MLK)— his arc mirrors that of the American people. He begins believing that the Voting Rights Act has achieved enough for civil rights for the time being, but comes to recognize Dr. King's position that more measures must be put in place. It is sad that Tom Wilkinson's performance will most likely be completely overlooked due to the controversy surrounding his role.

Selma is one of three films of the last five years that I believe deserves to be taught in high schools nationwide (along with *Lincoln* and *12 Years a Slave*) as an example of American history at its ugliest. However, one does not merely cringe because of the brutality that past generations incurred— they cringe because the images are so recognizable. In the song that ends the film, "Glory" by Common and John Legend, Common sings "Selma's now for every man, woman and child." The message is clear—now just as it was in 1965, it is important to stand up against injustice. It's time to be brave once again.

WHCL
88.7 FM from Clinton NY
Hamilton College's radio station
Now LIVE on air!

Minar
Fine Indian Cuisine

609 French Road
New Hartford, NY 13413

315-797-9918

ALL YOU CAN EAT
DINNER BUFFET $11.95
Tuesday and Wednesday
5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

ALL YOU CAN EAT
LUNCH BUFFET $8.95
11:30 am to 2:30 pm
Sunday 12:00pm to 3:00pm

Visit us at
www.uticaminar.com

New Hartford Taxi

Airport Pickup and Drop Off Service

Group Rates Available

315-507-2171

2 DEGREES IN 15 MONTHS — MS IN ACCOUNTING + MBA

3 MONTH PAID RESIDENCY AT A LEADING ACCOUNTING FIRM

100 PERCENT JOB PLACEMENT HISTORY

— ALL WITH —

0 ACCOUNTING EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

LEARN MORE northeastern.edu/accountingcareer

School of Business
D'Amore-McKim
Northeastern University
MS in ACCOUNTING + MBA

ONEIDA NATION ENTERPRISES, LLC
EXPLORE A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES
Turning Stone RESORT | CASINO

As one of Central New York's largest employers, Oneida Nation Enterprises, offers endless opportunities to begin, develop and advance your career!

NOW HIRING

Hotel
Food & Beverage
Culinary
Golf
Club & Nightlife
Spa
Security
Blackjack Dealers
Poker Dealers

Retail
Slots
Bingo
Finance
Supply Chain
Information Technology
Facilities & Maintenance
Marinas
SavOn Convenience Stores

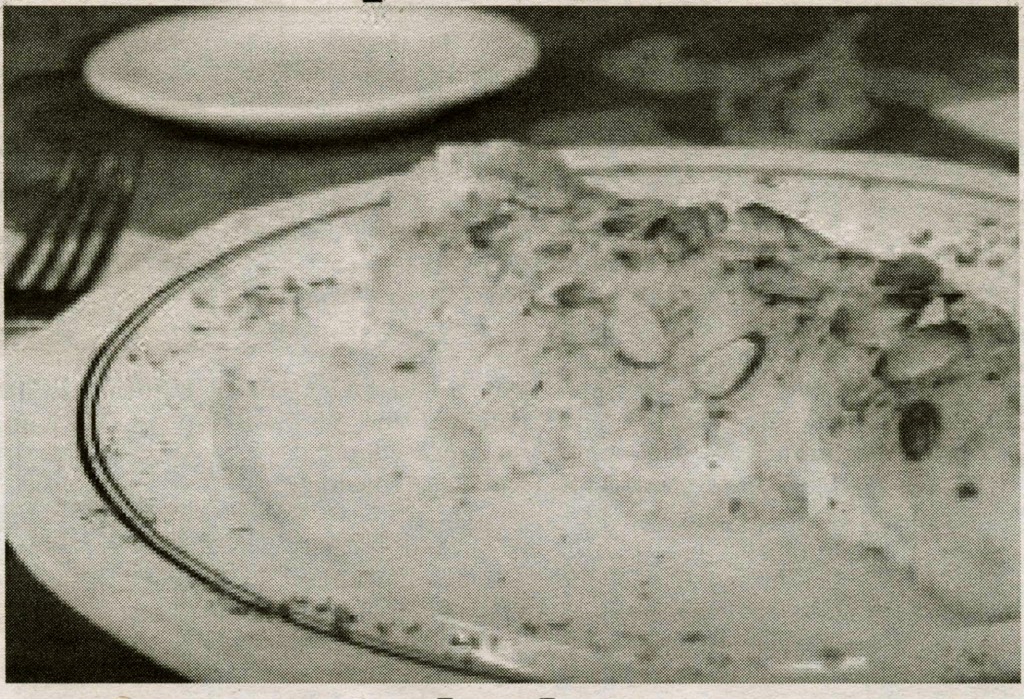
Full Time and Part Time positions are available on various shifts.

Become part of a growing, exciting organization that offers stability, flexibility, competitive wages, outstanding benefits, paid time off, 401K retirement plan and many additional employee discounts and amenities.

Learn more and apply online at www.turningstone.com/careers

Michael T's Restaurant

Famous for our haddock



Try our chicken riggies!

AAA Approved

8390 Seneca Turnpike
New Hartford

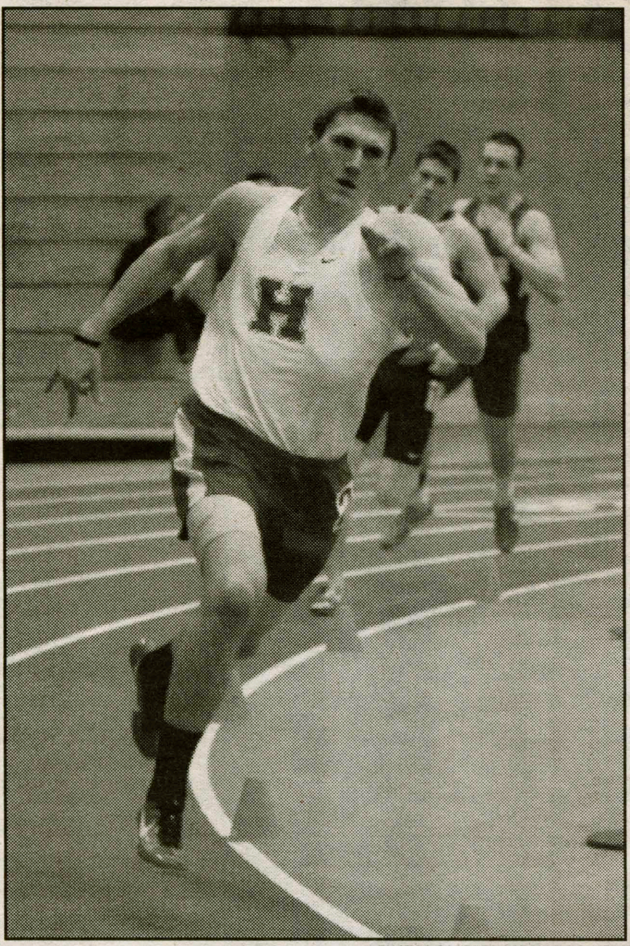
315-724-4882
michaeltsrest.com

10% DISCOUNT WITH VALID STUDENT I.D.

High hopes for men's and women's T&F

by Jack Vissicchio '17
Sports Writer

The men's and women's track teams are wasting no time, as they posted impressive performances in the first two meets of the indoor season. They may not get a lot of fanfare, but the track team is beginning to command recognition as one of the top athletic programs at Hamilton.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY

Joe Jensen '15 currently holds the fastest 400 meter dash time in Division III this season.

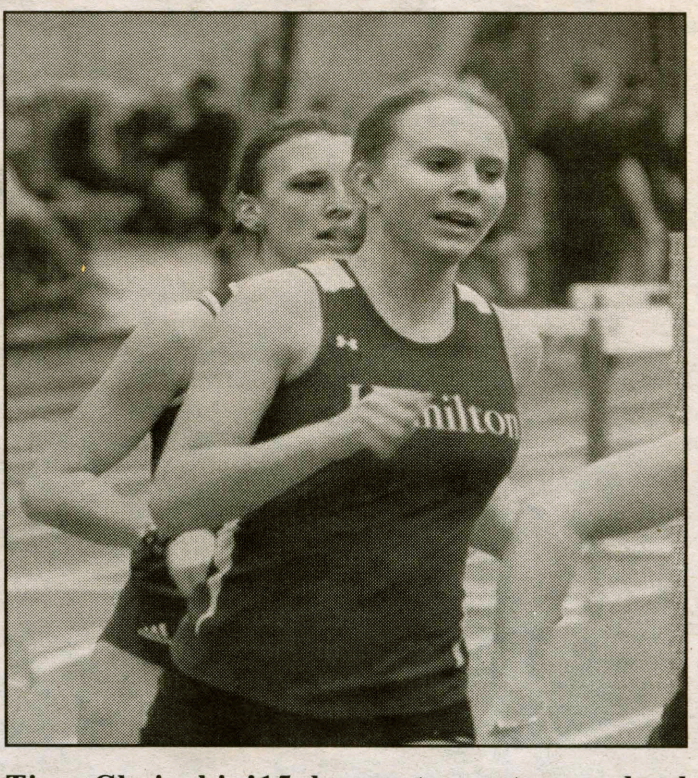
The men's team recently finished a very successful weekend at Brockport, finishing 3rd place out of fourteen teams. This is the first time that the men have been able to field a complete team, and the benefits have been immediate with their performance at Brockport coming off of a second place finish at RIT the weekend before.

Captain Joe Jensen '15 noted, "It is rare to have this many people contributing and competing at a high level like we have this season. We have each category covered with sprints, distance, jumps and throws."

Jensen is coming off an All-American performance in 2014. He has been fantastic for the Continentals this season racking up multiple school and personal records.

At Brockport, Jensen was in typical form, tallying wins in three different events. His winning time in the 400-meter dash, 49.13 seconds was the fastest in Division III this winter. He also won the 200-meter dash in 22.38 seconds, and was first in the 60-meter race with 7.05 seconds. To cap it all off, Jensen was selected as New York State Collegiate Track Conference Men's Track Athlete of the Week for the third time this season and for the second time in as many weeks.

The men's season is only on the way up. Jensen believes that his team is "not even close to their ceiling. This team has a lot of potential and has the work ethic to reach that potential."



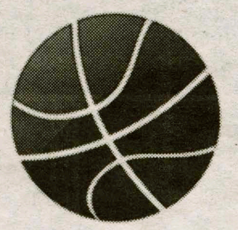
Tina Choinski '15 hopes to set a school record in the 1000 meter race this season.

The women's team is also in the midst of a great season and is also coming off of a successful weekend at Brockport, finishing 8th out of fourteen teams. This was the women's best showing in a meet this season. They were sparked by contributions in multiple events. Starting with the strong showing from the 1,600-meter relay team of Hanna Jerome '18, Sam Buttrick '17, Emily Banzer '15 and Mattie Seamans '18, with a fourth place finish.

The women also received another fourth place finish in the distance medley, as the foursome of Abby Uehling '18, Elizabeth Perry '18, Caitlin Anthony '18 and Buttrick recorded a time of 13:52.32. Lindsay Heyer '17 collected the Hamilton women's top individual performance, as she also came in fourth place in the 3,000 meters event. Additionally, Seamans and Jerome also came in sixth in the 400-meter dash and the mile run respectively.

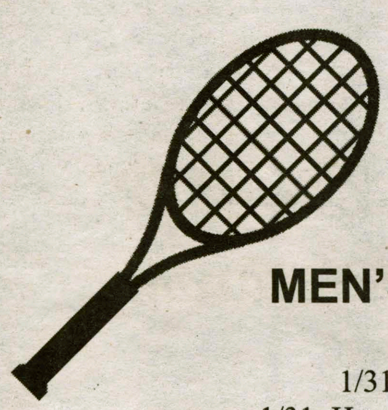
The Continental men's and women's track and field teams are at home for the annual Hamilton Invitational. The meet will run all-day Saturday at the Margaret Scott Bundy Field House.

HAMILTON SPORTS
WINTER SCHEDULES



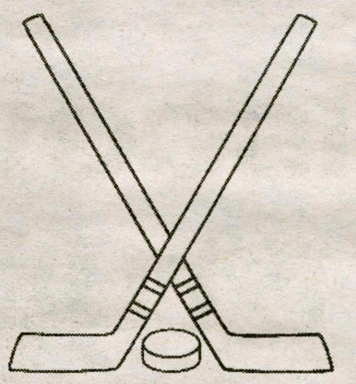
MEN'S ICE HOCKEY
1/30: Home vs. Wesleyan
1/31: Home vs. Trinity
2/6: Away vs. Bowdoin

MEN'S BASKETBALL
1/29: Away vs. Alfred State
2/1: Away vs. Middlebury
2/6: Away vs. Tufts



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SQUASH
1/31: Home vs. St. Lawrence
1/31: Home vs. Mount Holyoke (Women)
2/3: Away vs. Hobart & William Smith

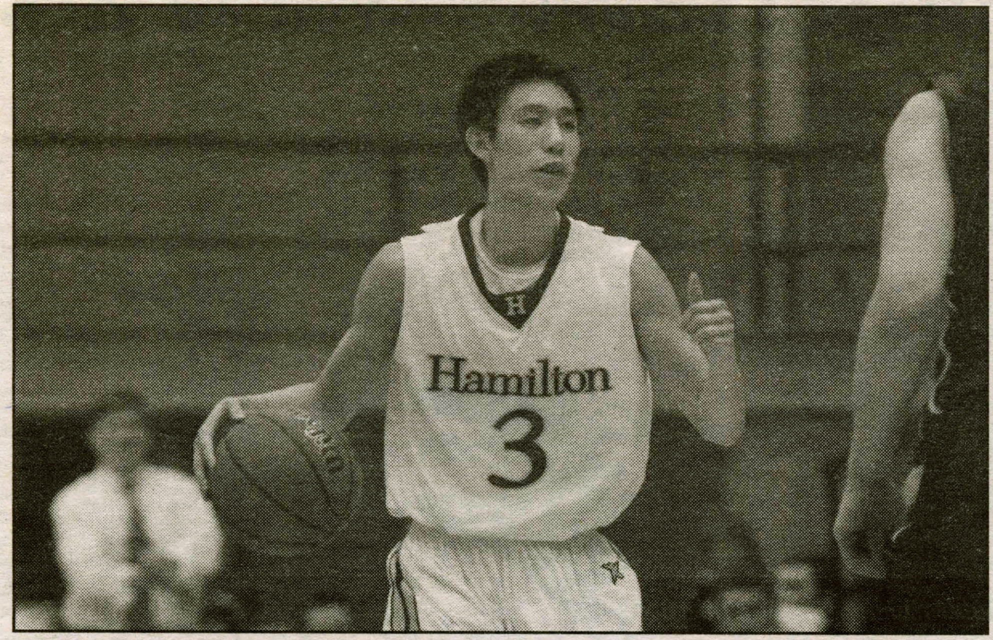
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
1/28: Away vs. Albany College of Pharmacy
2/1: Home vs. Middlebury
2/6: Home vs. Tufts



WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY
1/30: Away vs. Middlebury
1/31: Away vs. Middlebury
2/6: Home vs. Wesleyan

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD
1/31: Hamilton Invitational
2/7: Brockport Mid-Season Classic
2/14: Class of '32 Invitational

Basketball teams remain confident near middle of conference play



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY

Captains Lin '15 (left) and Graber '15 (right) lead their teams in scoring this season.

by Gregory Nabhan '18
Sports Writer

Coming off a tough four-game skid, men's basketball was ready to face last year's national championship runner up, Williams. Although the Continentals were 10-4 on the season going into Saturday's game, they were winless in conferance play.

Fueled by an enthusiastic crowd, the Continentals trailed nearly the entire game only to overtake Williams in the fourth quarter. Team scoring leader Joe Lin '15 and captain Peter Kazickas '15 had stellar games leading the comeback.

After Lin fouled out in the final minutes, the Continentals capitalized on final opportunities as Jack Dwyer '18 filled in. He and Kazickas both hit two key free throws before the buzzer to seal the deal and put the game out of reach.

"It came down to toughness," said Kazickas on the comeback. "Once we stop making small mistakes, fix all the mental errors and really play tough, we can beat any team in the league."

Commenting on the team's previous NESCAC losses Coach Adam Stockwell said, "It was great to see the respond and just get over that hole. We had a lot of Hustle plays that really made a difference in the end."

Nearing the end of the regular season, Coach Stockwell saw the game as pivotal going forward. "To have so many guys contribute and get a hard fought win coming from behind with a great crowd in NESCAC play is a great start."

Hamilton followed up with a decisive win over Keystone on Monday as they looked primed for their final stretch of NESCAC opponents.

On the women's side the team currently sits at 1-4 in the NESCAC. Starting 1-1 with a loss to Amherst and a strong win against Trinity, the Continentals then slipped with a three-game losing streak to Colby, Bowdoin and Williams.

While Amherst, Bowdoin and Williams all played Hamilton as nationally ranked top 15 teams, losing to Colby 45-47 proved particularly heartbreaking. "We outplayed them in two of the three major facets of the game. Defensively we did a terrific job against them as well as rebounding! Unfortunately, we couldn't make open shots and finish well down the stretch," said Coach Michelle Collins.

Fortunately, Coach Collins maintains hope for her team, spearheaded by captain Sarah Graber '16. "Graber has had an outstanding season thus far... she leads the team in scoring, is third in rebounding and 7th in steals. She is one of the hardest working players I have ever coached."

In preparation for their final NESCAC round of games, Graber believes Albany College of Pharmacy will provide good practice where the team needs it most saying, "Albany should help us firm up our offense against the zone."

Further ahead, Tufts looks to be the toughest matchup coming in February as the Continentals look to end their season on a high note.

Superbowl preview cont.

*from **Seahawks**, page 16*

ers beat themselves, and in some ways they probably did, but it took guts and determination for the Seahawks to claw their way back to the Super Bowl.

This year's match-up promises to be one of the hardest fought games in the history of the NFL. If the Patriots can somehow control their cheating instincts, this should be a fair and fun game. So let's just hope that we don't have deflated balls or illegal filming of the Seahawks' practices.

It's a match up of one of the best quarterbacks in the game against the best secondary and overall best defense. It also pits Beast Mode against a pretty solid Patriot defense. Look out for at least one interception from Richard Sherman, several rushing touchdowns from Marshawn Lynch and never count out Russell Wilson for some late game drama.

While the Patriots are a very good team and have earned their spot in this game, ultimately they should be no match for Pete Carroll's squad. The Seahawks have proven time and again that they are the scrappiest, hardest fighting and—in the end—the best team in the league. So if you have friends from New England, you should have a good condolence plan ready for Sunday night.

*from **Patriots**, page 16*

Lynch, while the athleticism of outside linebacker Jamie Collins makes him an excellent QB spy on Wilson. Patriots' defensive tackle Vince Wilfork had a quiet season, but he weighs 325 pounds and could crush a small whale, so a Seahawk seems like a relatively small challenge.

While the Seahawks' defense is admirable, there is no defense in the league potent enough to contain an angry Tom Brady, Rob Gronkowski, Julian Edelman and LeGarrette Blount. As we saw in last week's game against the Colts, when Blount's on a roll, there is no stopping him. Sherman and Byron Maxwell match up well against Patriot wideouts Edelman and Brandon LaFell, leaving Gronk as the X factor in this game.

The Seahawks will play physically and will hit Gronk on the line of scrimmage, but that's akin to hitting a Greek god. You don't hit a semi-literate 6'6" Greek god, say his balls are deflated and expect him to bow down. Brady is an experienced quarterback; his last two Super Bowl defeats are fresh in his mind. He will exploit this defense in the classic Patriot way, combining big-name talent with undrafted players to win.

M. Swim defeats Union

*from **Swimming**, page 16*

Saturday but we put up a good fight." Working hard until the very end of the meet, the women's team lost to Union by two points with a score of 150 to 148.

The final event, the 400-yard freestyle relay, was also pivotal for the men's team. "We faced a decision at the end of the meet where if we got second and third in the relay we won, and if we won the relay we won the meet," said Fields. "The smart thing may have been to split our relays and get the points, but we took a chance and it paid off. We wanted to win the relay and the meet, and it was incredible." The men's team won the meet with 157 points to Union's 141, making this the first time that the men have been victorious against Union in the current seniors' four years at Hamilton.

"I could go on and on about how great this team is, how amazing an experience this has been and how much I'm going to miss it. By far the best decision I ever made at Hamilton was to join the team," said Fields in reflecting on his swimming career at Hamilton. "There is more camaraderie and mutual respect amongst the men and women I've practiced and competed with than almost any other group. It's an amazing feeling to end your final home meet with a win over Union, but honestly it's also just an amazing feeling to have been lucky enough to swim for Hamilton for four years."

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL DOHERTY

Lauren Klei '18 has shown promise as a young member of the team.

January 29, 2015

H Spectator Sports

Superbowl pick 'em: Hawks vs. Pats

by Ben Fields '15
Editor-In-Chief

It's been almost exactly a year since Seattle sent a team to the Super Bowl. In that time a lot has happened, but one thing has remained constant: the city's love and craziness for the Seahawks. Few teams can claim quite the same fan base that Seattle's 12th man has brought in the last several years. Although many will call them bandwagon fans, really they have just been biding their time to have a team for which to scream, yell and generally go crazy. New England fans may hold a monopoly on general poor sportsmanship, anger and—dare we say it—cheating, but Seattle fans are the best in the game at supporting their team. Enough about the fans, there are two excellent teams about to face off in Super Bowl XLIX.

Seattle has not had the easiest road to get to Glendale, AZ and the University of Phoenix stadium, but they've certainly earned it. Coming out of the best division in the league, with three consecutive NFC champions, the Seahawks had to prove themselves throughout the season. They had a rough start, losing to the St. Louis Rams of all teams, but are currently riding an eight-game winning streak and are 11-1 in their last 12 games. With an easy divisional game against the Carolina Panthers, the NFC Championship was decidedly their biggest test.

A few words come to mind when thinking about the Hawks in the NFC Championship: scrappy, tough and tenacious. While many had counted them out, down by two touchdowns with just five minutes left and without the ball, the team itself knew that it was not done just yet. The Seahawks showed why they were consistently among the top teams in the NFL, why their defense has been the best for two consecutive years and why they deserved to be in the Super Bowl again. Yes, it can be said that the Pack-

*see **Super Bowl**, page 15*

by Grant Whitney '17
Sports Contributor

It will be a clash of dynasties when the New England Patriots and the Seattle Seahawks face off in Super Bowl XLIX on Feb. 1. The reigning Super Bowl champion Seahawks look to establish their franchise as a legitimate dynasty. A dynasty that dominated the 2000s, the Patriots aim to win their fourth Super Bowl in the last 15 years.

NFL.COM

It is a battle of opposite identities. East Coast versus West Coast. The enigmatic Pete Carroll versus stone-faced Bill Belichick. Young Russell Wilson versus the seemingly ageless Tom Brady. These two teams will play a phenomenal game for sure. Unfortunately for Seahawks fans looking to buy "Back-to-back Super Bowl Champions" t-shirts, the Patriots will win Super Bowl XLIX.

The Patriots by no means expect an easy victory. To the Seahawks' credit, they have created an outstanding young team in the last few years. Their defense combines a physical front seven with one of the most dynamic secondaries in the league, led by the polarizing Richard Sherman. Offensively, Marshawn Lynch, while not being particularly vocal, is one of the strongest runningbacks in the NFL. His raw power, combined with Russell Wilson's versatile playing style, more than makes up for the Seahawk's lackluster passing game.

But the Patriots boast a much more complete team—a team that matches up perfectly against the Seahawks. In last week's AFC Championship Game, the Patriots' secondary held Andrew Luck to 126 passing yards with a 36% completion rate. Expect this terrifying secondary, led by Darrelle Revis, to contain the Seahawks' comparatively weaker passing offense to similar shutdown numbers. This will allow the Patriots' defense to focus on getting to Marshawn Lynch and Russell Wilson behind the line of scrimmage. Hard-hitting linebacker Dont'a Hightower presents a comparable counterpart to

*see **Super Bowl**, page 15*

Swimming and Diving honors seniors vs. Union

by Shannon O'Brien '15
Managing Editor

"We were ready," said captain Ben Fields '15 of the swim team's meet against Union College last Saturday afternoon. "We knew that it was going to be a tough meet, but every year we talk about Union Week, and this year we were more ready than ever."

Besides being against one of Hamilton's greatest rivals, Saturday's meet held considerable significance and meaning for the team because it was the senior swimmers' last home meet. To honor the seniors, the pool grounds were decorated with buff and blue streamers, further hyping swimmers and Continentals fans.

After grueling workouts and extra training over winter break, the team was feeling ready to show off the results of their hard work. "It was senior day, all of us were ready to swim as fast as we could in our last races at home," said Fields, "and I think the underclassmen felt that energy rub off on them." Captain Sarah Larson '15 added that everyone seemed to feel "pretty pumped because it was our last home meet."

Of course, the big meet against Union fell around the peak of the team's training, meaning that the swimmers were physically exhausted and not yet in the tapering process. "At this point in the season we are broken down mentally and physically, I think even more so this year than in past years," said captain McKenna Kelly '15. "It can be difficult to step up and race, especially in a high pressure race environment, but everyone really rose to the challenge and swam extremely well this past weekend."

Both the women's and the men's teams were touched out in the first event of the meet, the 200-yard medley relay, but this did not discourage the Continentals. Fields explained that the men's team had expected to lose the first relay—they had strategically planned to save their top swimmers for the last relay of the day. Indeed, in the event that followed—the 1000-yard freestyle—Kelly and Ryan Cassidy '17 handily came into the wall first, both earning personal best times of 10:58.00 and 10:06.92 respectively. Both the women and men went on to dominate the 200-yard freestyle, as well as the 100-yard backstroke, demonstrating the depth of this year's team.

Many events, however, were extremely close, with wins coming down to the hundreth's of seconds. Captain Reid Swartz '15, who has been the top swimmer on the men's team all season, especially felt the pressure. "I was nervous for the backstroke events because I was swimming against Andrew Welch '15, who has probably been my biggest rival over the years," Swartz explained. Impressively, Swartz won the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 52.38, beating Welch by .11 seconds. Swartz also went on to easily beat Welch in the 200-yard backstroke later in the meet, and he also placed first in the 100-yard butterfly. Because of his stellar swims on Saturday, Swartz was named the NESCAC performer of the week for men's swimming and diving.

Kelly was also mentioned in this week's NESCAC sports newsletter for her win in the 1000-yard freestyle as well the 100-yard butterfly, in which she edged out Union swimmer Alexis Wojtowicz '17 with a personal best time of 1:01.89.

Throughout the meet, the score continued to go back and forth between Hamilton and Union. "The whole meet was close," explained Larson. "It came down to the last relay. In the end we lost by one race—a fifth place finish that Union nabbed. They were the better team

*see **Swimming**, page 15*

The seniors at their final home meet.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHAEL DOHERTY

Men's swim and dive defeated Union on Saturday.